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Providence Independent Newspaper, 1875-1898

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5-5-1892

Providence Independent, V. 17, Thursday, May 5, 1892, [Whole Number: 881]

Providence Independent

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A DEAR OLD GOOSE.

Jack Furnival was a good man to know. If you wanted ten dollars he'd let you have it; if you got into a scrape he'd do his utmost to get you out of it; if you were down on your luck and turned into his chamber he'd set himself to find out the cause of your depression and contrive to lighten your heart before bidding you good-night. There are men whom you can never address by their Christian name. It was just as impossible to call him Mr. Furnival after a few days' acquaintance. People who didn't know him set him down for a fool; those who did know him declared that he was simply the most generous, lovable old bachelor living. Of course he was victimized over and over again. What good-natured man can escape being imposed upon? He would have enjoyed an independency and been a rich man with a little selfishness in his disposition. Having none, he had to work hard to pay the taxes levied on his generosity. A good half dozen old women kept themselves alive through his philanthropy, and the children who called him godfather and came down upon him at all seasons for material support were legion.

One morning he received a letter from Boston. It ran thus:

DEAR JACK—I am about to pay the great debt of nature. Unhappily it is the only one which will remain unpaid. You lent me \$400 long ago. I have never forgotten your kindness to me—a comparative stranger. The only testimony of affectionate remembrance I can give is to appoint you sole guardian of my child, who will come on to you as soon as I am under the sod. Adieu forever, dear Jack.
Your friend,
ROBERT HALLECK.

This letter did not surprise Jack Furnival—he was so accustomed to finding himself executor to men who could rely on no one else to put their affairs in order and settle up their arrears. But it did embarrass him when some three weeks later a tall young woman of eighteen or thereabouts walked into his chamber and announced herself as the child of Robert Halleck, and his ward.

What was he to do with his ward? That question perplexed Jack Furnival exceedingly while the young lady was eating the biscuit and sipping the coffee which he had instinctively put before her. She was too old to send to school, and she was not old enough to put in an almshouse. As her guardian it was his first duty to see that she didn't get into trouble, and how could he rest secure if he sent such a bright, fresh, innocent, attractive young creature as she out of his sight!

He solved the difficulty at length in this way. There was a flat above his own to let; he took the rooms, had them furnished and installed Miss Halleck in them with an old woman to wait upon her and be a companion, who was recommended by half a dozen respectable people.

But it was as impossible to keep Miss Halleck in her room as to keep a bird in a cage when the door is left open. When Jack came out of his dressing room, in the morning he found her in his sitting room, and he couldn't get her out of it until it was absolutely necessary to go to bed. But for all that she was not troublesome. When he had work to do she became so still and silent that he wouldn't have known that she was in the room but for a glimpse of her bright head over the back of a big chair, where she sat reading a book selected at his recommendation, and never stirred till he signified that the work was done. Then it was as if a pack of children had suddenly been set free from school. She filled the place with life and sound; she was all over the room at once with laughter, snatches of song and scraps of nonsense, all so fresh and delightful to Jack's somewhat blase senses that it seemed to carry him into a new world of which he had had no conception. He found time to take her out and about a good deal—at first for her own sake, fearing his quiet mode of living would weary her, and then for his own, finding his greatest happiness arose from watch-

ing her delight in the new experiences of London life.

The old woman upstairs did not murmur. She was pious and sleepy and loved nothing better than to doze into forgetfulness over a volume of Blair's Sermons, which she certainly would not have been able to do had Miss Halleck been in her rooms.

Gradually the girl altered. She became less careless and boisterous. She ceased to tease Furnival and was still and mouse-like when there was no necessity—so far as his work was concerned. Then she ceased to come down to his room unasked. He tried to treat that as a joke, and sent an ironically formal letter asking to have the pleasure of her company to tea. She took the note in all seriousness and came sharp to the time he had appointed, looking pale and a little frightened, as though she expected to be charged with some fault, and it needed a rather embarrassing explanation to make her understand that the formally was a joke.

All this troubled Jack not a little, and he tried to get at the reason of her altered manners and ways. Had she received bad news from Canada? No. Was she getting homesick? No. Did she wish to see her old friends again? No; she had no friends, and the city was the dearest place in all the world to her.

Failing to get any satisfactory explanation from the old woman, Furnival tried the old woman when Miss Halleck had gone out for a walk—latterly she had fallen into the habit of walking out alone, without hinting at the object of her walk.

Shaking the old woman out of her slumbers, he asked her straightly what was the matter with her young lady.

"Lor, sir, don't you take any notice of that," said the duenna with a cunning look in her puckered eyes. "Tain't nothing but what she'll grow out of. Every young gal's like that when she first falls in love."

Furnival saw it all clearly enough now. Her silence—her solitude seeking—her unexplained promenades—all were clearly enough accounted for by the fact that the girl had found some young fellow to love. It was all natural enough, but somehow Furnival was not satisfied. Yet he saw how inevitable the thing was, "Can't expect her to keep always a child for my amusement," thought he.

"Kitty," said he one day, "I've found out your secret."

"What secret?" she gasped, sinking into a chair, trembling and white.

"Don't be frightened, my child," he said, drawing his chair to her side; "we have been brought into the relation of father and daughter, and all the tenderness a daughter commands from her father I hope you will find in me."

"Yes, yes, yes,"

"The secret I've found out is not a very dreadful one. You are in love."

She covered her scarlet cheeks with her hands, and presently mustering up her courage, she said—

"Yes, I am in love."

"Well, if the young fellow is worthy of your love, I cannot object to that. The only possible harm would be in your loving some one who was undeserving."

"Oh, he is the best—best 'young fellow' in the world."

"That is just the one thing which is open to question. Your judgment can scarcely be trusted in such a matter, and so I must beg you to let me act for you. Believe me, I shall be indulgent. Come, tell me his name."

"I can't."

"What, he has told you that he loves you, and not let you know his name?"

"He hasn't told me that he loves me."

"Good heavens, Kitty? Then you don't know if this fellow loves you at all?"

"Oh, I'm nearly certain he loves me."

"But does he know that you love him?"

"I don't think that he does. There's the difficulty, you see. If I could only let him know that I love him, I think it would be all right."

Furnival was silent before this marvel of ingenuous simplicity.

"Well, what do you propose to do, Kitty?" he asked, after a pause.

"I don't know, quite. You see, I should die of shame if I made any advance and he misconstrued it, or did not respond as I should like him to do."

"Oh, I understand your delicacy, my dear child."

"And so I have rather avoided giving him any testimony of my affection than make it known to him. But we can't go on like that forever, can we?"

"Not if you want to get married," said Furnival, with a laugh.

"And so I thought that perhaps the best thing I could do would be to write to him—only I don't quite know how to begin. Can you help me?"

"I'll try, though it's a precious difficult job for an old bachelor to tackle. However, we'll make the attempt."

Here's a scrap of paper." (He took an old envelope from his pocket, tore it open and spread it on his card-case.) "Now, how shall we begin?—better say 'sir'—there's no knowing what he is—may be the biggest blackguard under the sun."

"I don't think he is," said Miss Halleck, in parenthesis.

"Ten to one he is, though!" said Furnival, under his breath, and perhaps at that moment the wish was father to the thought. "Well, there we are—'sir'—now, what's to come next?"

Miss Halleck hid her face in her hands again, was silent a minute, and then murmured, tremblingly, "I love you."

"Oh, hang it all, I can't write that," said Furnival.

"Why not, it's the truth! And what else can I say?"

That was a poser.

"Well," said Furnival at length, "if it must be—let me see, what did you say?"

"I love you,"

"I love you," there it is. What next?"

"Why, that's all."

"That's all?"

"What else is there to say? If he doesn't love me when he reads that—"

Miss Halleck finished the sentence with a sigh.

"Funnier letter I've ever written," thought Furnival. "But, Kitty," he said, "what's the use of this letter now it's written? We don't know the fellow's name."

Miss Halleck snatched the paper out of his hand, threw it into the hearth and made for the door. Amazed at this outburst of temper Furnival ran after her and caught her.

"I beg you won't be angry with me," he implored. "You don't know how deeply I feel in this affair, dear. You said you couldn't tell me his name—"

She hesitated a moment and then in desperation cried:

"I can't tell you his name; but isn't it written on the back of the letter you have been making such a muddle over, you dear old goose?"

Furnival glanced at the scrap of paper in the hearth. The envelope had turned over and he saw his own name and address.

Then he went down on his knees and made himself more than ever a "dear old goose."

THE SMUGGLER.

In 1834, when I was yet a youngster before the mast, I took a trip to Tampico in a little trading schooner called The Ella, commanded by a jolly skipper from Florida, one Nat Martin, a dark-skinned Spanish creole, who, "for short," was always called by his friends "Nig." The schooner generally carried out her dry goods and provisions on her owner's account, but I always had an idea that she tonned more than her register made her responsible for.

We were only nine days on our run from New York out to the mouth of Tampico river, and about noon on the tenth day we stretched in over the bar with a leading wind that would easily have carried us with a flowing sheet up to the town, which was nearly twelve miles above; but, for reasons best known to himself, the captain anchored as soon as we passed the fort and rounded Point Tampico, just above and out of the teeth of its guns.

The revenue boat from the guarda costa came on board before our sails were furled, and the custom house officers overhauled our papers and manifest. They seemed a little suspicious, and one of the officers was left on board to watch us, while the rest went on board their own craft, which lay nearly half a mile farther down the river, under the guns of the fort.

As soon as dinner was ready the captain invited the revenue officer down in the cabin to dine with him, and as they went below the former winked his large laughing blue eyes at the mate, and I knew: well there was fun in the wind.

As soon as the captain and Mexican had got below, the mate slipped into the small boat and sculled ashore. In the meantime, I could tell by the lively voices in the cabin that the officer and captain were getting along very well together, and once in awhile the tinkle of meeting glasses and a jolly song spoke of a "spirit potential" that was playing upon the hearts and senses of both parties.

At last, a little after dark, with a real Havana in each of their mouths, they came on deck, the skipper and the watcher. Both were decidedly and equivocally drunk, if one might judge from their walk and conversation; but I could see at a single glance that the captain was shamming, although the "spiritual reality" was visible in the Mexican. He seemed, however, to retain some notions of his duty and to know that, as night was over us, if we intended to smuggle it was necessary for him to keep his eyes open. So he seated himself on the taffrail with an air of drunken dignity, and as he

hummed a Spanish barcarolle, kept watch over the movements of the crew about the deck, glancing now and then up and down the still river.

As the night advanced I saw that Captain Martin began to look uneasy and anxious, although he pretended to be even more drunk than his guest and spy.

At last, when it was near midnight, the Mexican became less frequent in his snatches of song, and the "liquor drowse" seemed to be coming over him.

Captain Martin now lay down beside the Mexican and pretended to fall into a sound sleep, attesting the same by long, loud and regular snoring. This threw the Mexican completely off his guard, and wrapping his watch coat closer around him he followed suit, and then the twain seemed to be trying which could snore the loudest.

When the Senor Mexicana had got fairly under headway the captain arose lightly from the deck, and passing forward took the lantern from the binnacle and held it for a moment under the bows. Presently I saw several dark objects coming out from under the shadow of the land, and in a few moments more six large native canoes were alongside of us.

In the first one that boarded us was the mate and a merchant, whom I well knew to belong to one of the first houses in Tampico. The boat came noiselessly alongside and their crew crept stealthily on board. Without a sound the hatches were raised and package after package of rich dry goods was passed up from the hold and over the side into the boats by the tawny, half-naked rascals.

The boats were nearly all loaded when I, who had been placed to keep watch over the sleeping revenue officer, saw him open his eyes, and before I could move or speak he saw and comprehended all that was going on. Springing to his feet he shouted:

"Guarda costa—contrabandista!"

One bound from where he stood by the main hatchway to the taffrail and our captain was by the side of the officer with his brawny hands encircling the windpipe from which proceeded so much noise.

The Mexican tried to draw his sword, and struggled manfully to get free from the choking grip, but Captain Martin knew that the entire loss of his vessel and cargo would follow detection, and he was not disposed to trifle. Raising the Mexican, in spite of his kicks and writhings, he coolly pitched him overboard.

It was quite dark, and as the tide was ebbing swiftly downward he passed out of sight instantly, but for minutes we could hear him splashing and gurgling in the water and trying to shout. Then all was still again. We knew not whether he had sunk or gained the shore, nor, to tell the truth, did we care much.

"Bear a hand, boys!" said the captain; "tumble in these packages; get the rest of the goods into the boats and let them get ashore. If that dago has not drunk too much water, he may give us some trouble about this matter yet."

In a few moments the last package to be smuggled was passed into the boats, the "patron" who had made the purchase counted out the pay in doubloons, the canoes pushed off and soon vanished up the river. In a few moments our hatches were replaced, the deck cleared up as before and the crew retired to their berths with orders to be sound asleep and not to wake up on any account.

All this was scarcely arranged, when the dash of oars coming hastily up the river was heard, and in another moment an armed boat from the guarda costa was alongside. At the first sound of the approaching boat Captain Martin had laid down where he first pretended to go to sleep and he was now snoring louder than ever. Even the curses, many, loud and deep, of the Mexicans failed to arouse him from his deep slumber.

The officer who had been thrown overboard, still dripping from his involuntary bath, rushed aft and with no gentle means tried to arouse the sleeper. At last he yawned and scratched his head and coolly asked what was the matter and what was wanted. Then came a scene!

All the Mexicans, cursing and swearing and threatening and carraodoing at once, pointing to the officer who had been taking a midnight swim all alone to himself, who, with a voice louder than all the rest, swore that he would have drowned if St. Antonio hadn't made the sentinel hear his voice aboard the guarda costa and caused them to send him a boat.

The captain could not be made to understand what was the matter, and when he was charged with having thrown the revenue officer overboard and with having smuggled boats alongside, he raised his hands in holy horror toward the stars and indignantly replied:

"It's all a contrived lie. Why," said he to the other officers of the

guarda costa, "that gentleman dined with me; we drank pretty freely, and then came up from the cabin, when both of us lay down here to sleep. I did not wake up until now; he must have been dreaming and have fallen overboard in his sleep! You all saw that I was sound asleep when you came aboard, how then could I have thrown him overboard? The idea is absurd, nonsensical, the whole story improbable—yes, impossible—see, my hatches are all battened down, just as they were when you were on board when I came in from sea to-day; nothing has been moved; my crew are all asleep. He must have been dreaming, and while he dreamed of smugglers and the like of such he must have fallen overboard. He knows very well that he was 'as drunk as a lord.'"

The story of the captain was well conceived, and told with better effect among all the revenue officers, save the victim himself, who called upon every saint in the calendar to come down and swear that his story was true. But the perfect order and quietude of our vessel, the crew all sound asleep, the hatches all battened down, just as they were in the morning; the honest indignation of our sleepy captain, and the acknowledgement of the victim that he had been drunk, compared badly with his own story, and the yarn of Captain Martin was believed. The soaked official was taken back to his own vessel, to be tried and punished for sleeping on his watch, while another officer was left in his place to keep us from smuggling. When daylight came we weighed anchor and sailed up to the town, where we honestly discharged the cargo per manifest, paying honorably all charges and duties thereon.—Ned Bunline in New York News.

A Thimble Party.

THE NEW STYLE ENTERTAINMENT THAT IS TOO MUCH FOR THE MEN.

It was while calling at the Brunswick the other day that the young lady made this complaint, and, much to her surprise, for the lady upon whom she was calling is an old lady, she was helping out of her difficulty.

"Why don't you give a thimble party? All the young girls out West are giving them."

"But, what is a thimble party?"

"Oh, it's very simple. The girl giving the party sends out her visiting cards, in one corner of which is written 'at home,' and the date, and underneath that, 'Thimbles from 3 to 5,' or '5 to 6,' just as she prefers.

"On the afternoon in question the girls bring their thimbles and work, and of course, some light refreshments are offered."

Here, indeed, was an idea, and the young lady immediately acted upon it. The afternoon she chose proved to be quite cold, so she had a cheerful blaze in the fireplace, and the girls sat cozily around it chatting about their work—and other things, of course, though there was not one bit of gossip; there wasn't, really.

One was embroidering a sofa cushion, another was doing a lovely piece of Mexican drawn work, and many ideas were exchanged for future birthday presents, and even for next Christmas.

There were some late copies of *Life* lying about, and one of the ladies, who said she had work, but did not unroll it, read aloud some of the bright things in them.

In one corner of the room the hostess had set a dainty tea table with a pretty Worcester chocolate pot and dear little cups, and late in the afternoon chocolate and thin, delicate sandwiches were served.

The ladies all voted it a success, and the men—envious things, just as if they didn't have clubs all their own—said that the next time they were going to leave business early and bring their thimbles, too.

And they had a chance to use thimbles soon, for one bright girl heard the envious remarks and determined to see how much of it they meant.

So she got up a bonnet party.

Every girl carried an untrimmed bonnet or hat and materials for trimming it. These were placed on a table, and the men chose what they wished, in turn, little number cards having been given them when they came in.

No, I presumably had the best chance, but then he may not have had the best taste, and so he did not choose the most artistic things.

In fact at this party, the man who had the very last number won the first prize.

After the materials had all been chosen, the men seated themselves, and the girls provided them with thimbles, needles, thread and scissors, but were not allowed to make any suggestions.

Then the fun began.

There may be combinations that will make more fun than the one of

man, thimble, bonnet, ribbons, feathers and needle; but there surely cannot be many.

One of the men took such a long thread that he had to drop the hat on the floor, then stand up and hold up his arm at its full length to draw the thread tight. Another used a chair back to push his needle through.

It took over an hour to put all the materials together, with occasional interruptions, when some unfortunate ran his needle under his thumb-nail, stuck the scissors into his hand, while one ended, in his desperation, by fastening on the trimming with pins.

After the bonnets were trimmed (and how some of them were trimmed!) the girl to whom each one belonged was obliged to wear it into the dining room, where a dainty supper was served.

After the company had returned to the parlor the bonnets were all placed together on a table and the young ladies voted which was the most artistic—the one they would prefer to wear, if obliged to wear one of them—and which was the worst-looking bonnet, and the prizes were then awarded.

The prize for the best bonnet was a pretty booklet, "Bonnets and Hats," and for the worst a doll's silk sun-bonnet.

And it may be that some one of these bonnets is carefully treasured by its fair owner because of "the one" who trimmed it.—Boston Globe.

A New Amendment.

A Washington despatch says: "Resolutions introduced in the Senate and House, proposing an amendment to the Constitution, suggested by the National League for the protection of American Institutions, so as to prevent any State from passing any law prohibiting the free exercise of religion, or to raise money for the purpose of founding a religious institution or society, were advocated by a delegation from that league before the House Judiciary Committee."

While it is supposed the Constitution is explicit enough on the subject of religion, it will do no harm to have it ironclad something like that proposed above. The present provision on the subject is as follows: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." There is nothing in this to prevent the States doing what is prohibited to the general government. There are restrictions in some, probably in all, of the State Constitutions, but we know how easy it is to have them changed. Efforts have been made in some States to have the school funds apportioned between different sects, and, in some instances, have nearly succeeded; and we hardly know what we may not expect in the future. A provision to raise money to found a religious institution or society is prohibited in few, if any, of the State Constitutions, and, in Pennsylvania, some of the appropriations for hospitals go generally to this point. We believe the amendment asked for is a good one, and, if engrafted in the Constitution, can work no injury, but may possibly prevent great harm being done to our form of government at a critical period in its history. Religious societies are not always governed by disinterested saints, and, sometimes, religious fanaticism and ambitious over-ride all safe-guards. As long as it requires a vote of three-fourths of the States to amend the federal constitution, an amendment such as is asked for would be likely to be permanent.—Doylestown Democrat.

Odd Coverlids.

"I see," said Snaggs, laying down the newspaper he was reading, "that paper quilts are being manufactured and are used extensively, giving good satisfaction."

"There's a scheme," remarked Boggs. "When a man is too poor to take a newspaper he can read his quilt. I suppose they will have library quilts after awhile, with one of Dickens' novels printed on them. Great scheme, isn't it?"

"That's nawthing," said a man with a wild-west accent; "I mind stopping at a tavern in Oregon where the landlord gave us a tallow dip to show us to bed."

"Ye'll find yer breakfast spread for ye fust thing in the mornin', gentlemen," he said, as we wished him good night; "eat round the edges, but save the middle if you can."

JOHN W. MORRISON has succeeded Henry K. Boyer as State Treasurer, and General D. McM. Gregg has succeeded Thomas McCamant as Auditor General of Pennsylvania.

ATTORNEY GENERAL HENSEL has been heard from in relation to the recent railroad combine. He claims that the agreement between the Lehigh and Reading corporations was distinctly authorized by the charters of the two Companies, and that it does not in any way conflict with the laws of Pennsylvania.

A GENTLE breeze from Skippack wafts the information that Brother Dambly of the Transcript is also a Republican candidate for the Legislature. If the information is not at fault we shall expect Skippack to make an heroic effort to win a prize at the next Republican Convention. And, sure enough, Brother Dambly is competent to fill the place he will not refuse to accept—which is more than we care to say about some other candidates.

WEDNESDAY night of last week a fire originated in the Central Theatre, Philadelphia, and before it was under control the theatre, the Times' splendid Annex building and other valuable property was reduced to shapeless ruins. It was a terrible conflagration. At first it was thought that no lives were lost, but subsequent investigation revealed six bodies charred almost beyond recognition. About 60 persons were injured, some of them seriously. The loss approximates \$1,000,000, the heaviest lossers being the Times' publishers. In face of the appalling catastrophe which destroyed the type rooms and offices, the large library and valuable papers, and buried the press room under razed walls the Times' publishers went right to work and issued an edition of their paper the day after the fire.

On Monday last the House passed a bill, under a suspension of the rules and without a single dissenting vote, permitting the great steamers City of New York and City of Paris to be registered as American vessels and to fly the American flag. Although these vessels are owned chiefly or wholly by Americans, they had to be registered as English ships, subject to English laws, liable to capture as English prizes in case of war between any other country and England, simply because they were not built in this country; and they were not built in this country simply because it is impossible to build such vessels here without such an excessive outlay as to make them unprofitable in competing with English vessels for the commerce of the seas. This is the first step and a long step toward free ships. Today the ship industry of this country, which once had 100,000 of the best sailors of the world, is practically destroyed, the effect of restrictive tariff madness. Now American commerce conducted by American ships promises to be restored.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From Our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Apr. 29, 1892.

The Blaine talk, like the silver question, will not "down" this week it is heard wherever republicans congregate. The silver republicans are largely responsible for this Blaine revival, so to speak. They are averse to supporting President Harrison, because of his well known opposition to free coinage, but they are perfectly willing to take Mr. Blaine without knowing that he is any more friendly to free coinage than Mr. Harrison is. The anti-Harrison republicans generally have also, it seems, come to the conclusion that the only way to keep Mr. Harrison out of the nomination is to nominate Mr. Blaine, and if they can have their way the Minneapolis convention will nominate Mr. Blaine whether he will or not.

In these days of bitter and unreasoning partisanship in Congress it was a positive pleasure to hear Representative Hooker, of Mississippi, who is a democrat, make a speech in the House praising the administration for its diplomatic victories it has won. He said that the manner in which Secretary Blaine had treated the complications with Chili and Great Britain proved him to be a great statesman.

If the Canadian sealers think to avoid seizure in Behring's Sea by sailing under the Mexican or other flags they will make a costly mistake, as the commanders of the United States vessels will have orders to seize all vessels caught taking seals, without regard to the flag under which they sail.

Senator Hill is confident that he will receive the democratic nomination for President, but the Cleveland democrats in Congress declare most emphatically that he has not even a ghost of a chance. "You pay your money and you take your choice."

If Representative Enloe had wished to make the public sympathize with Commissioner Raum he could not have accomplished his purpose quicker or better than by losing his temper and calling that gentleman a liar, as he did when Mr. Raum was on the stand testifying to the committee which is conducting the investigation of the Pension Bureau, and his attempting to strike Mr. Raum after having called him a liar did not mend the matter. Personal abuse never convinces anybody; it usually reacts upon those who indulge in it. Representative Wheeler, who is chairman of the investigating committee, has the

right idea. He said after the disgraceful occurrence alluded to above: "Mr. Raum came here in response to a summons from this committee to testify, and he must be treated like any other witness. Whether his testimony be true or false does not matter. After his statements have been made any other man who cares to may have the opportunity to take the stand and deny or disprove them."

Representative McCrae, chairman of the House committee on Public Lands, has reintroduced a bill which has been before several Congresses, providing for the forfeiture of all lands granted to railroads opposite to and continuous with such portions of the railroad not completed within the time specified in the original grant.

It begins to look as if the much talked of investigation of the Census Bureau, was authorized by the House sometime ago, will amount to nothing. Democrats who investigated the resolution say this is because the investigation was put in the hands of the House Census committee, members of which are under personal obligations to Superintendent Porter for patronage, and the republicans that it is because there is nothing to be investigated.

Persistence always tells, in Congress as elsewhere. Early in the present session Representative Watson, of Georgia, as the result of a conference of the Farmers' Alliance members of the House and in response to requests made by labor organizations in all sections of the country, introduced a resolution reciting the semi-military character of the services performed by men in the employ of the Pinkerton detective agencies for various corporations, and authorizing an investigation of their methods. Although the Alliance members persisted in asking that the resolution be reported to the House, for a long time they were put off by the majority of the Judiciary committee, to which the resolution was referred, with vague talk about doubts of the constitutionality of such an investigation—the constitutional bugaboo invariably bobs up when the interests of the big corporations are threatened in Congress—but they still persisted, asking that the resolution be reported, even if adversely, in order that they might compel members of the House to put themselves on record for or against it. At last the committee has decided to report a substitute striking out the allegations of fact in the Watson resolutions, but authorizing an investigation of the Pinkerton system and methods.

THE MISTAKE SOME MOTHERS MAKE.

From the Bradford Era.

The mother who raises her daughter ignorant of ordinary housekeeping under the idea that the daughter need not do the hard work the mother has had to do, is making a mistake. No matter if the daughter is never to do such things she knows how to direct household work only when she knows how to do it. It does not hurt any girl to know how to cook, sew, wash dishes and do all other household work. And then if the time comes when it is necessary, as it may to even the most favored, she can do it. The task is to have to face such requirements while ignorant of the work.

PARALLEL CASES.

From the New York Weekly.

Mrs. Grumpp. "There are thousands of occupations in which men have places which women should fill. Why shouldn't women be druggists?"

Mr. Grumpp. "This cottage pudding isn't good at all. How did you make it?"

Mrs. Grumpp. "I took a few handfuls of flour and some milk and a few eggs, I forget how many, and some sugar, I think, and I believe I added some salt, and maybe some baking powder, don't know how much. I never measure."

Mr. Grumpp. "That's why."

UNCERTAIN ABOUT RETURNING.

From the Oakland Echoes.

There's at least one lawyer in Oakland who has his doubts about the immortality of human affairs, and he is a serious man with a wife. It is his custom to put on his office door, when he is going out temporarily, notices somewhat of this character: "Gone to lunch; back in half an hour."

"Gone to court; back in three hours."

"Gone out to see a man; back in ten minutes."

And so on, as the circumstances may require, and as he is a prompt man, callers are generally successful in waiting for him.

One day lately a caller found this: "Gone shopping with my wife; back the Lord only knows when."

A HEARTLESS WIFE.

From Texas Siftings.

She had no sympathy with the BOOZY BEER.

She was reading an article in Texas Siftings about the adulteration of food laying down the paper she remarked: "It is getting too bad for anything. Here I see that copper is used in green tea, and that some preparation of tin is used in refining sugar."

"You don't say so." I wonder if there is not some preparation of lead in beer?" he remarked.

"Nothing; except after I have taken half a dozen schooners of beer my legs get to be so heavy that I can hardly get up out of my chair."

She merely remarked that she was sorry there was not a little strychnine in beer among the other things, and resumed her reading. This is a heartless world.

THE BALLOT LAW CONSTITUTIONAL.

The Court of last resort has sustained the constitutionality of the Baker Ballot law. Judge Paxson, in his opinion affirming the constitutionality of the law, goes to the marrow of the subject by declaring that a secret ballot is in entire harmony with the constitutional provision that elections shall be free and equal. In point of fact he holds that secrecy is a fundamental condition of a free ballot, a contention that is in entire accord with good common sense as well as good law.

In elaborating his opinion upon the subject the Chief Justice shows that the section of the bill requiring a political party to have polled three per cent. of the total vote at the last election disfranchises no one. A three per cent. party hasn't a ghost of a

show to elect its ticket, but in the opinion of Justice Paxson there is nothing in the law to prevent the prohibition or any other side show party from nominating a ticket and printing the names of its candidates on stickers which can be pasted on the official ballots, marked, voted and counted, thus doing no citizen an injustice.

There may be a dozen practical defects in the law now suspected, and it may be repealed or amended by future Legislatures until its authors will disown its paternity, but two things are settled by the Supreme Court's decision, the first of which is that the election next November will be held under its provisions. The decision was not made a moment too soon to enable the County Commissioners to secure the necessary equipment for holding the election and provide the ballots required by the law.

Strength and Health.

If you are not feeling strong and healthy, try Electric Bitters. If a Grippe has left you weak and weary, use Electric Bitters. This remedy acts directly on Liver, Stomach and Kidneys, gently adding those organs to perform their functions. If you are afflicted with Sick Headache, you will find speedy and permanent relief by taking Electric Bitters. One trial will convince you that this is the remedy you need. Large bottles only 50c., at Culbert's Drug Store.

ESTATE NOTICE.
Estate of Jacob Gegenheimer, late of Upper Providence township, Montgomery county, deceased. Letters testamentary on the above estate having been granted, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having legal claims, to present the same without delay to ROBERT PRINCE, Executor, at his Attorneys, Hallman & Place, Norristown, Pa.

THE LATEST

SPRING STYLES

—AT THE—

COLLEGEVILLE

MILLINERY STORE

The undersigned wishes to inform her friends and patrons that her New Store is stocked with a fine display of the Leading Styles in

SPRING MILLINERY!

Fancy Goods and Notions, Ready-Trimmings and Bonnets Always on Hand.

Mourning Work a Specialty. Bonnets and Veils for funerals furnished.

F. B. LACHMAN.

GOOD WHEAT

Is what we need every day, and we are willing to pay a fair price for it. It requires GOOD

WHEAT to keep our flour to the standard it has attained. If you have never tried our Flour

Try it now. If your dealer does not keep it, and you have wheat, you can hit two birds

with one stone by bringing wheat and exchanging it for flour.

We will guarantee you good flour and plenty of it.

FARMERS! When harvest time comes along remember if you want good wheat you must cut it before it dies on the stalk; and

RYE likewise. Some of you were not aware of this; neither were you aware of the improved

RYE PLANT lately added to our mill, which means more rye to buy and more rye feed to sell. Our supply of rye is small, but supply of rye feed large; as supply and demand regulate prices, judge them by that.

Bran and Middlings, our own make, nearly always on hand and selling at fair prices.

Give us a call.

Landes Bros.,

YERKES, PA.

THE PLACE TO BUY

Furniture, Carpets,

Bechtel's Warerooms!

WE ARE DEVOTING OUR WHOLE TIME AND ATTENTION TO THE

Housefurnishing Business

IN ALL ITS BRANCHES.

Therefore we are better prepared to meet the wants of our customers than any other place in the country. We are now prepared to show a complete assortment in

Brussels, Ingrain and Rag Carpets,

SMYRNA, MOQUETTE and other rugs at astonishingly low prices.

My customers have been convinced in buying furniture as well as Carpets, that they can buy cheaper at our place than by going to the cities; further they have seen and lay the carpets, or deliver and set up all Furniture in first-class order, free of charge.

Bed Springs, Mattresses, Feather, Bedding, Sideboards, Sinks, Lounges, Couches, Fancy Mouldings, etc.

Shades made to order and hung. Picture Frames made to order, always a good stock of moulding on hand. Have now a fine assortment of

OIL CLOTHS

To our extensive stock. Any new work made to order. Upholstering and all kinds of repairing done at very low prices. Moving and packing.

Give us a call, learn our prices, and be convinced.

John L. Bechtel,

COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

CARPETS!
CARPETS!
CARPETS!

PRICE

Quality and Workmanship

All right. Have you thought of your need of carpets this spring? We have been thinking of it for you and the result of our efforts are now ready for your inspection. Our knowledge, our capital, our skill in selection, have all worked for your benefit. It will profit you to visit our rooms. The floor space is ample, the light is so good that color values are true, and thus selection is made easy. And selection is ample also when you have choice of Brussels of these makers: Victoria, Roxbury, Stinson, Smith, Riverton, Delaware. The varieties of Axminsters, Moquettes and Saxony Velvets comprise beautiful patterns in colorings suited for all tastes.

Of cheaper carpets the Ingrain in quality are right at the prices, and the patterns are the choice and serviceable selections of this spring's offerings. The C C Supers, Extra Supers and Three-Plys are in quantity sufficient to prove worthy of a visit to look them over.

The Carpet Department is complete also in Oil Cloths and Linoleums, in Window Shadings, &c.

The facilities we place at your service are complete. We guarantee our work in every respect and our work covers every detail after you have made the selection.

We ask the favor of your visit in the confident belief that we can save you money and trouble in giving the best money value to be had in Carpets.

I. H. Brendlinger

LEADING DEALER IN

DRY GOODS, TRIMMINGS, CARPETS AND BOOKS,

Nos. 76, 78, 80 and 82 Main Street

NORRISTOWN, PA.

FURNITURE

CARPETS, DRY GOODS,

NOTIONS,

Groceries, Etc.

Grand - Depot,

ROYERSFORD, PA.

IS THE PLACE FOR BARGAINS

Antique Oak Bedroom Suit

7 Pieces, \$21. 20 Styles Parlor

Suits, \$27 to \$125; Sideboards,

\$8 to \$75.

CARPETS,

All lines of Rag, Ingrain and Brussels at very low prices. Also Bedding of every description. Tables of all kinds, Oil Cloths, Linoleums, something special in finely decorated Trays, Dinner and Chamber Sets, at prices that will surprise you. Don't fail to see our new line of Spring Dress Goods, Dress Gingham, &c. Fine French Satins, 10c.; Chevron Prints, 6c; good Unbleached Muslins, 5c. per yard, worth 8c.

FINE RAISINS, 4 lbs. 25 CENTS.

Come in the morning; you will get more attention in making your selections.

E. L. MARKLEY,

211, 213 & 215 Main St.,

ROYERSFORD, PA.

Garden, Flower,

and Field **SEEDS**

BULBS, -

Horticultural Implements,

TOOLS, ETC.

Landreth's Illustrated Descriptive Catalogue and Rural Register Free to All Applicants. Published in English, German, Swedish, Norwegian, French and Spanish.

D. Landreth & Sons,

Seed and Implement Warehouse,

Nos. 21 and 23 South Sixth Sts.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

Founded 1784.

ESTATE NOTICE.

Estate of Jacob Weikel, late of Upper Providence, Montgomery county, deceased. Letters testamentary on the above estate having been granted, the undersigned, all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate payment, and those having legal claims to present the same without delay to

AARON WEIKEL, Executor, at his Attorneys, ABRAHAM WEIKEL, Trappe, ISAAC R. WEIKEL, Oaks, Norristown, Pa.

Or their attorney, Walter S. Jennings, Norristown, Pa.

34mrt

DRESS * GOODS
IN GREAT VARIETY
—OF—
PRICE & PATTERN

Papering at the prices at which we sell wall paper, takes but little more cost than a single season's white washing; besides, the paper looks much better and lasts much longer. We have numbers of patterns of each quality of paper; prices range from 5 to 15c. a piece of 8 yards. In the very good, the borders match the paper exactly. There are also a few remnants, enough for rooms 10x12 and under, to be sold very cheap. We mail samples of papers if desired.

Paints For inside and outside work. The outside paint made, and is the only ready-mixed paint which upon analysis shows the presence of enough rubber to act as a preserver of surfaces to which it is applied; more gloss is not a thorough test—longness in putting on is, and our Rubber Paint has that as well as the gloss. The makers are not afraid to put it against any ready mixed paint in the market for durability. Our price for it is away down. All shades of paint in 1/2 pint cans; suitable for small jobs, such as brightening up old chests, chairs, buckets, milk cans, &c.

Furniture Polish No one who should think of cleaning house without it; the only thing to be gotten that needs only an old rag for its application, and yet gives a look of newness to furniture. We use it exclusively on the furniture we send out.

Carriage Paints, All colors, in just as nice and as good for wear if put on at home as a cheap job with the carriage painter, and cost only 50c. for the job—35c. for paint, 15c. for a brush.

Other Seasonables: Lack of venis lengthy mention. Fence Wire, poultry Wire, all widths. Field and Garden Seeds, in packages and bulk.

Household Goods for Outfits

White Rock Lime in Cans. White wash and Paint Brushes. Spring

Styles in Men's and Boys' Hats, and Clothes Stuffs.

KULP & WAGNER,

GRATER'S FORD, PENNA.

BARGAINS

IN ALL KINDS OF

STORE - GOODS!

—IS THE ORDER AT—

FENTON'S.

The list of Specialties is comprehensive and includes just what you want and at the right price. In the line of

DRY GOODS!

SHOES FOR MEN, LADIES AND CHILDREN.

HATS AND CAPS

FOR MEN AND BOYS.

We Mean to be Ahead!

Our \$1.25 and \$1.68 Ladies' Kid Shoes are unsurpassed.

Ladies' Oxford Ties, only \$1.00 and \$1.25.

Extra Fine Dugola Kid Shoe, \$2.00 and \$2.50, guaranteed.

Misses' Kid Shoe, only \$1.25.

Men's and Boys' Boston Club Shoes, only \$1.25, very easy on the feet.

In Quality for Fine Groceries,

WE CAN'T BE BEATEN.

Choice Bee-Hive Syrup, only 50c. gal. Good Table and Baking Syrup, only 40c.

Best quality New Orleans Molasses, 60c. gal.

4 lbs. best Head Rice for 25c. 4 lb. Box Starch, 25c.

1 lb. best Cheating Tobacco, 25c. Pickles, 10c. doz. Full Cream Cheese, 15c. lb. Finest Ginger Snaps, 10c. lb. or 3 for 25c. Water Crackers, 3 lbs. for 25c. Still have a few Old Potatoes, \$1.30 bushel. FULL LINE OF HARDWARE, OILS, DRUGS, PAINTS, CEMENT, PLASTER

PARIS, OIL CLOTHS, &c. Extra heavy Fly Screen Doors, all sizes, for \$1.00 and \$1.25. Window Screens, all sizes, 25 and 35c. Agent for Allentown Ready-mixed Paints. Save agents' big profits by purchasing The Renowned Sewing Machine for \$19.50, with all attachments, delivered free. Orders by mail promptly attended to and goods delivered at all points.

W. P. FENTON,

216b COLLEGEVILLE, PA.

New Coats for Spring.

LEOPOLD'S!

—NEW—

DRESS GOODS

AT LEOPOLD'S.

OVER FOUR HUNDRED COATS OFFERED BY LEOPOLD.

New Striped Blazers, 49 cents, at Leopold's.

New All Wool Blazers, for \$1.09, at Leopold's.

New Jackets, Black, Blue, Tan, \$1.75, at Leopold's.

New Coats, all colors, \$1.60, at Leopold's.

New Coats from 49 cents to \$9.90, direct from five of the leading makers of the country, at Leopold's.

New Dress Gingham, at Leopold's.

New Dress Goods, 1 yard wide, 10 cents, at Leopold's.

Something new are handsomely printed Muslins in lovely designs and colorings, just received at Leopold's.

Great variety of Camels Hairs, Cheviots, Houspuns, 50 cts., at Leopold's.

Thursday, May 5, 1892.

THE ROAD QUESTION.

Next Tuesday the voters of Upper Providence will cast their ballots for and against the proposition to borrow \$50,000—\$10,000 per year for five years—for the purpose of substantially improving the principal public roads of the township. No citizen will dispute the importance of the question, nor dispute the necessity of better roads. The existing diversity of opinion in relation to the pending issue arises from a variety of considerations as to the best methods to adopt in the securing of better highways during the seasons when dirt roads become roads of varying depths of mud. The Committee in preparing the proposition about to be voted upon made careful estimates based upon reliable information. To more fully elucidate the calculations entertained by the Committee in formulating their plan we cheerfully give place here to a clear and concise statement of the more important points contained in the proposition from one of the members of the Committee:

"Can the indebtedness be created without increasing our tax rate?" It is purely a question of arithmetic, and the solution of it will depend largely upon the wise handling of the taxes. Let us see whether it can be done. Under the plan proposed we borrow the first year \$10,000. That is all to be used in making permanent roads. Besides that amount there will come into the hands of the supervisors from all sources \$6000. We are told that an amount equal to 8 per cent. of our debt must be deducted from the road tax each year to pay the interest and reduce the principal of our debt. Suppose the rate of interest to be 5 per cent. 8 per cent. of the debt is \$800 and deducting that from the road tax leaves \$5,200 to keep the roads in repair. Out of that \$800 we pay \$500 for interest, and have left \$300 to reduce the principal. That leaves our indebtedness \$9700. The second year our indebtedness is increased by another \$10,000. After appropriating 8 per cent. of the debt out of our taxes we still have left \$4,400 for use in repairing the roads. So each year up to the fifth we have heavier interest to pay and less to spend on the old roads, and in the fifth year we would have \$2,000 of our taxes left. But by that time most if not all of our principal roads would be macadamized, and the expense of repairs would be comparatively little. After that fifth year our debt would steadily decrease, and if we pulled through that year all right, which we could do by good economical management, there would be no necessity for increasing our tax rate afterward, for by the end of the twenty-third year the entire debt would be wiped out. If this can be done let us vote to borrow the money, and build good hard roads, and not sit around waiting for next winter's bad roads to come to make us realize that it is necessary for some other power to pull us out of the mud. For if we do not start to help ourselves now, we will surely be sticking in the mud and lamenting our condition again next winter.

The foregoing is a fair and candid statement and we cannot perceive how it can be successfully questioned. Anticipations of a doubting character as to the effectiveness of the work in proportion to the cost may be indulged in. Very well, but the logic of the whole matter is right here: Will the judicious expenditure of \$2,000 upon a single mile of road be money well expended—not \$1,000 or \$3,000 or \$5,000 or \$7,000, but \$2,000 per mile? We must say yes, surely. It will not do to argue in advance that the money will not be judiciously expended, for that is equal to begging the question and an intimation as well that the people of Upper Providence are not good housekeepers in regulating their public affairs. And it is not just to argue that the road tax will be materially increased. If the road tax would be materially increased it would imply reckless official management; that's all. Is it right to hold the proposition responsible for what might happen if it is accepted? We repeat, is it right? If it is not right, don't do it.

Let every voter go to the polls and vote. If the proposition is accepted, well and good; if it is rejected, well and good, too, even if there is to be a continuation of mud, holes, and loose stones on our highways—for the majority will rule and a majority of votes one way or the other will settle the question for the present.

RELIGIOUS.

On Sunday, May 8, Bishop C. S. Haman, of the Evangelical Association, will preach in the Evangelical church at Limerick at 10 a. m., at Trappe at 2.30 p. m., and at Schwenksville at 7.30 p. m. The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Preaching at St. Luke's, Trappe, Sunday, a. m., at 10 o'clock. Sunday evening at 7.30. Subject: The Beautiful Shepherdess—the second sermon in the series on Scriptural women. All invited.

M. E. church, Evansburg. Sabbath school at 9.30 a. m., every Sabbath. Preaching, 10.45 a. m., and every Sabbath evening at 7.30.

Episcopal service at St. James' Evansburg every Sunday at 10.30 a. m., Sunday School, 2 p. m. Also a service at Royersford at 7 p. m. Rev. A. J. Barrow, Rector.

A Little Girl's Experience in a Lighthouse.

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Trecoott are keepers of the Gov. Lighthouse at Sand Beach, Mich., and are blessed with a daughter, four years old. Last April she was taken down with measles, followed with a dreadful cough and turning into fever. Doctors at home and at Detroit treated her, but in vain; she grew worse rapidly, until she was a mere "bundle of bones." Then she tried Dr. King's New Discovery and after the use of two and a half bottles was completely cured. They say Dr. King's New Discovery is worth its weight in gold, yet you may get a trial bottle free at J. W. Culbert's Drug Store.

Home Flashes and Sparks From Abroad.

—Glorious Springtime!

—The human being who can look upon Nature just now without being thrilled by the evidences of Nature's awakening influences is in a dull as the broad side of a knife blade.

—Last Sunday night some miscreant visited the spring house of milkman Henry Wismer, Trappe, and emptied a can of milk, wasting the greater part of it.

—Read the new advertisements of Florist H. Kimby, this place, and of E. L. Markley, proprietor of the Grand Depot, Royersford.

—There will be several speed contests at the Lower Providence Driving Park, Saturday afternoon, May 21.

—The Schwenksville creamery was sold last Thursday to a Mr. Ziegler for \$2,720.

—Richard Powers, aged 50 years, of Phoenixville, had his leg crushed while working in the tunnel at that place Saturday. The limb has since been amputated near the thigh at the Pennsylvania Hospital.

—At a meeting of the Directors of the Poor held at the Almshouse Thursday, orders for the regular monthly bills were passed amounting to \$2,400.

—A pool tournament between the Phoenixville and Norristown teams was played in the former place on Thursday, resulting in a victory for the Phoenixville boys by a score of 139 to 118.

—A mathematician being asked by a student how much a pig weighs, the mathematician replied: "Jump into the scales and I will tell you immediately."

LICENSES GRANTED AND REFUSED.

At the Argument court Monday, Judges Swartz and Weand granted only five out of seventeen special applications for license and disposed of considerable miscellaneous business.

QUITE A CONTRACT.

The management of the Royersford Glass Works have just made a contract for 5000 to 6000 gross of fruit jars of different sizes, aggregating in value \$20,000 to \$25,000. The goods must be manufactured before the annual closing of the works on July 1.

LIABLE TO MERCANTILE TAX.

George R. Yeakel, of Whitmarsh, who completed his labors some weeks ago as mercantile appraiser, has returned to the city, and has been appointed estate brokers and 25 pool and billiard tables as liable to the mercantile tax.

NOT A BURGLAR—A CARPET BAG.

The young son of James Ames, of Birdsboro, placed a bag filled with carpet rag in his parents' bed, the other day, for a joke, and when his mother saw it in the evening she thought a burglar was in the house. Officer Dengler was summoned and he arrested the carpet bag.

THE HIGHEST ELEVATION IN THE COUNTY.

Some of our exchanges have it that H. S. Keely, a farmer residing at Homers Hill, Worcester township, Montgomery county, is supposed to live upon the highest elevation in Montgomery county. On a clear day a view of eight counties stretches out before him. He can see Montgomery, Bucks, Lehigh, Northampton, Berks, Chester, Delaware and Philadelphia counties. When the breezes rattle his locks at a summer night he can sit beside his door and see the lights of Chestnut Hill and by day a Philadelphia church spire that looms up.

SAD RESULTS OF WRECK.

Joseph Weeklan, aged 40 years, was run over and killed by a train at Gibraltar, Penna., last Saturday night. His children were standing on the opposite side of the track waiting their father's home-coming when the accident occurred.

THE BREAKING OF A TRUCK OF A FREIGHT LOCOMOTIVE.

The breaking of a truck of a freight locomotive near Coatesville on Saturday night, caused the west-bound Pittsburg mail and express train to jump the track. Fireman Harry Martin was killed and Engineer Harry Shultz was fatally scalded.

CAUGHT THE RUNAWAYS.

Last Thursday Mr. Detwiler, the miller at the upper Mingo mills, drove a pair of spirited nags to Paist's Roller Mills, this place. While at the mill the horses frightened, escaped the hands of the driver and ran toward Perkiomen Bridge. Opposite Mr. Kalb's place, Walter George, the tinsmith, with the agility of an athlete, sprang to the head of one of the animals and soon succeeded in reducing their speed, thus preventing any damage to either the horses or the wagon. Walter's friends think he is entitled to a medal.

THE PICNIC SEASON.

The swallows are here, the warm zephyrs from the south are laden with the perfume of blossoms, the songsters of the woodland, orchard and meadow warble attractive ditties, and the picnic season looms up ahead. As Brother Culp would say, "Exactly so!" And Oak View Park, near Norristown, will continue to be one of the most delightful picnic resorts in the State. Additions have been made to the attractions and conveniences. In addition to the 20-acre green there are base ball grounds, 4-mile bicycle track, tennis grounds, pony track with 12 jumps, gentle Shetland ponies, fancy little carriages and saddles, just the thing for the children. The Merry-Ground is the finest in the State. Plenty of fresh, pure water and lots of tables and benches everywhere. Mr. H. R. Rittenhouse, of Norristown, is an energetic, go-ahead man and will do everything to accommodate the public. Committees will do well to write and secure dates as early as possible.

Deafness Can't be Cured

By local applications, as they cannot reach the diseased portion of the ear. There is only one way to cure deafness, and that is by constitutional means. Deafness is caused by an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed it is entirely closed Deafness is the result, and when the inflammation is taken out the tube returns to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. When this tube gets inflamed it is entirely closed Deafness is the result, and when the inflammation is taken out the tube returns to its normal condition, hearing will be destroyed forever; nine cases out of ten are caused by catarrh, which is nothing but an inflamed condition of the mucous lining of the Eustachian Tube. 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